

Remarks

In this amendment, claims 1-6, 8-16 are pending. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite features of the "angled stop arrangement."

Specification

The Examiner has alleged that the April 22, 2005 amendment improperly included some new matter. In the amendments above, the objected-to language has been cancelled. Accordingly, this objection may be withdrawn.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the recitation of the envelope-flap-opening device in claim 7 as not being adequately depicted in the figures. Applicant has cancelled claim 7, and this objection may be withdrawn.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1-6, 10 and 13-16 stand rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,164,046 to Werner et al. ("Werner") in view of U.S. Patent 5,180,154 to Malick ("Malick") and U.S. Patent 5,447,015 to Belec ("Belec").

These references were similarly asserted in the prior office action. Applicant requests reconsideration of the arguments made in the previous Amendment of April 22, 2005, which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Assuming, for the sake of argument, that the asserted references can be combined for purposes of §103 analysis, those references do not include the "angled stop arrangement" with the "intermediate stop position," as recited in independent claim 1. These missing elements are new features specifically invented to overcome deficiencies that would have prevented the mere combination of the asserted references from working properly.

It is requested that the Examiner carefully review pages 6 and 7 of the present application for a description of the "angled stop arrangement" and the significance of each of the "active," "inactive," and "intermediate positions." Also, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly show that the "angled stop arrangement" includes components and functionality that are distinguishable from the back-stop 50 structure described in the asserted Belec reference. In particular the "angled stop arrangement" includes a "first part" independently movable from a "second part." The "first part" is used to cause the "active" and "inactive" positions, while the "second part" independently controls the "intermediate position." Based on this further review, the Examiner should find that a transitional stage between an open and shut back-stop 50, as identified in Belec, is insufficient to satisfy the missing components of claim 1.

Claims 8 and 11 stand rejected in view of the Werner, Malick, and Belec references in further view of U.S. Patent 5,950,399 to Viens, et al. ("Viens"). Viens is asserted for its description of an envelope flap opening device. However, Viens does not cure the deficiencies as described above with regard to claim 1. Accordingly, these rejections should be withdrawn for the same reasons.

Claims 9 and 12 stand rejected in view of the Werner, Malick, and Belec references in further view of U.S. Patent 6,102,391 to Malick, et al. ("Malick2"). Malick2 is asserted for its description of abutment features and spherical rolling bodies. However, Malick2 does not cure the deficiencies as described above with regard to claim 1. Accordingly, these rejections should be withdrawn for the same reasons.

Conclusion

All issues having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted this application is in a condition for allowance. Please contact the undersigned representative if there are any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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